

DURAND OAK

Quercus durandii Buckl.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Bluff oak, Durand white oak, White oak, Basket oak.

FORM: Often 60-90 feet high with a tall trunk 2-3 feet in diameter; comparatively small branches, lower horizontal, upper ascending, forming a dense round-topped head.

BARK: Thin, light gray or nearly white, broken into thin loosely appressed scales.

TWIGS: Pale gray-brown, at first covered with fascicled hairs, soon glabrous or puberulous and darker in their second season.

LEAVES: Simple, alternate, thin, obovate to elliptic, margin entire, 3-lobed toward the rounded or acute apex or irregularly laterally lobed; the three forms occur on different branches of the same tree, on lower branches usually lobed, dark green, lustrous above, often green and glabrous below, sometimes 6-7 inches long, 3-3 1/2 inches wide; on upper branches mostly white and pubescent or tomentose below, 2 1/2-3 inches long, 1 1/2-1 1/2 inch wide.

FLOWERS: Monoecious; staminate in slender villose aments, 3-4 inches long; pistillate on a short tomentose peduncle, stigma red.

FRUIT: Acorns solitary or in pairs; nut ovoid or slightly obovoid, rounded or rarely acute at apex, nearly truncate at base, pale chestnut-brown 1/2-2/3 inch long, barely enclosed in the thin shallow cup; mature at end of first season.

WINTER BUDS: Ovoid, acute, 1/4-1/3 inch long, dark chestnut-brown, scales ciliate on the margin.

WOOD: Very heavy, hard and strong, brittle.

USES: Pulp. Historical uses: pins in cotton gins, spools, baskets, wagon hubs.

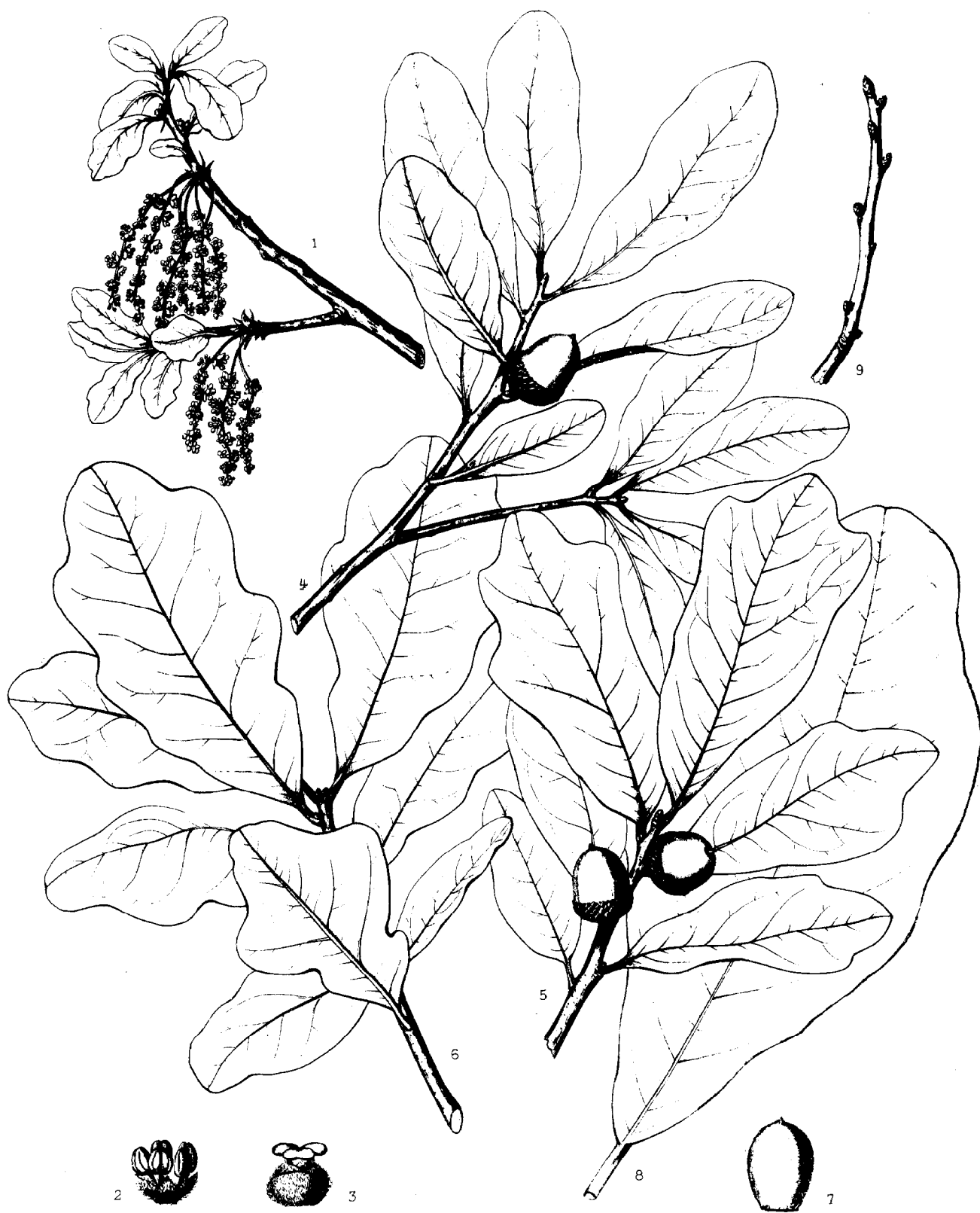
HABITAT: Rich limestone prairie soils and other soils rich in lime.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Leaves entire or slightly lobed, they vary in size and shape on the same tree; the cup of the acorn very shallow, saucer-shaped; tree with a dense round-topped head; bark thin, light gray or nearly white.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Comparatively rare in the state. Reported from Morgan, Blount, Jefferson, Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Sumter, Greene, Hale, Perry, Dallas, Wilcox, Choctaw, and Clarke Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A flowering branch | 6. A sterile branch |
| 2. A staminate flower | 7. A nut |
| 3. A pistillate flower | 8. A leaf |
| 4. A fruiting branch | 9. A winter branchlet |
| 5. A fruiting branch | |



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